Section 31a Jeopardy

True or False?

Security	Services	Funding	Regulations	Potpourri
\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200
\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300
\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400
\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500

We share a building and a security position with another facility and pay for the service out of Section 31a funds.





ANSWER:

FALSE—A school district of the first class under the revised school code, or a district or public school academy in which at least 50% of the pupils in membership met the income eligibility criteria for free breakfast, lunch, or milk in the immediately preceding state fiscal year may use no more than 20% of the funds.

Under the "Security Expenses", we can pay for structural changes to a school entrance to funnel people to the office.





ANSWER:

FALSE—Bricks and mortar are not fundable for security purposes.



For security purposes, can equipment (camera, etc.) and labor for security personnel be allowable expenses?





ANSWER:

TRUE – Section 31a funds can be used to purchase security equipment as long as at least 50% of the pupils are eligible for free breakfast, lunch, or milk.



A school district may use no more than 25% for security purposes if >50% of students are eligible for free lunch, breakfast or milk.





ANSWER:

FALSE—No more than 20% of 31a funds can be use under these conditions.



We are allowed to use carry-over to fund security resources.





ANSWER:

FALSE—Carry-over funds can not be used unless it can be documented that they were not used for security in previous years.



We can use funds to support parent/child play groups for toddlers and/or preschoolers that meet the 31a eligibility.

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ANSWER:

FALSE—Although parental involvement is encouraged under the new legislation, it also omitted any mention of programs for pre-K children.

A school wide program can be implemented using 31a funds if more than 40% of their students are eligible at-risk students. Up to 100% of allocated funding can be used for this initiative.

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ANSWER:

TRUE—Section 10 of the legislation stipulates that if more than 40% of the students are atrisk in a school, up to 100% of the allocated funds may be used for a schoolwide initiative if it aligns with the school improvement plan.

A social worker can serve both general education and 31a students.



ANSWER:

TRUE—If the service is identified in the Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA), and it is directed by the LEA continuous improvement plan, the social worker can serve general education and 31a students at the same time.

The district should focus all of its 31a resources on proficiency in 3rd and 11th grades.

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ANSWER:

FALSE—Although the benchmarks for proficiency are for 3rd and 11th grades, it is important to understand that the grades leading to the benchmarks need funding support for students to reach them.

Direct non-instructional services can only be given before school, after school or by adding extra days to the school year/calendar.

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ANSWER:

"during" the regular school day, the language read "may" be conducted before or after regular school hours or by adding extra days to the school year. This implies that in addition to regular class time, districts may also use alternative times.



Funds from 31a can be used to fund the purchase of computers.





ANSWER:

TRUE—Using 31a funds is allowable if the purchase is the result of a need expressed in the Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA) and the LEA continuous improvement plan as it relates to 3rd grade proficiency in reading and career/college ready 11th grade students..



Funds from 31a can be used to establish and maintain an antibullying program in the district..





ANSWER:

TRUE –Subsection 16 of the legislation states that the district may use funds to support antibullying or crisis intervention programs.



Transportation costs can include the purchase of a van.





ANSWER:

FALSE—Transportation costs may be for the lease or rental of a vehicle to transport 31a students outside the regular school day or year (summer school). The need must be detailed in the Comprehensive Needs Assessment and the School Improvement Plan. Also, if it is not directed to the proficiency level of 3rd grade students in reading and career/college ready 11th grade students, it is not an allowable expense.

An LEA may initiate and fund an Alternative Education Program with 31a funds.





ANSWER:

\$400

TRUE—. Districts have the flexibility to use the funds, but, will be held accountable for reading proficiency at 3rd grade and career and college readiness at 11th grade.



Salary and benefits for a school counselor can be funded by Section 31a funds.





ANSWER:

TRUE—Section 31a funds can be used as long as it promotes reading proficiency at 3rd grade and career or college readiness at 11th grade.



31a reports must be submitted through MEGS+ every three years.

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ANSWER:

FALSE—Reports must be submitted via MEGS+ to OFS each year by July 15th.

Districts can now use Section 31a funds for schoolwide activities as long as 50% of the students in the school are identified as at-risk.

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ANSWER:

FALSE—The language actually indicates that at least 40% of the students are identified as arisk..

My district can take up to \$10 per FREE lunch child for my School Breakfast Program even if we break even or make money.

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ANSWER:

\$300

FALSE—A district should only take up to \$10 per FREE lunch child to make up the difference between their revenues and expenses.



School behavior specialists are commonly referred to as school psychologists or counselors.

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ANSWER:

TRUE—Other personnel considered behavior specialists are school social workers, psychiatrists and at times, psychologists depending upon the role. All specialists should be appropriately certified or licensed.

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To request a class size reduction, the school must have at least 30% free breakfast, lunch, or milk and be 60% or more of the district's percentage of eligibility.

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ANSWER:

TRUE—Although stricken from the current legislation, if the classroom size reduction is a strategy written into the LEA/school continuing plan, it is allowable. Documentation must also be submitted showing a three year trend of class size for the grade(s) selected and contract language addressing class size, as is done for Title IIA. This also requires prior approval from the MDE 31a consultant.



To document the proficiency of third grade students in reading, the results of the fall 2013 fourth grade MEAP test should be used.





ANSWER:

FALSE—The measurement of proficiency in 3rd grade is based upon a "dip-stick" collection of the latest scores from the assessment nearest the end of the third grade. (Interim Assessments, Formative Assessments, or Benchmark Assessments)

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We are allowed to use 31a funds to pay for the expense of our summer science camp program (includes transportation). This is a camp for 31a students on an offsite location.





ANSWER:

TRUE—This is fundable as long as all of the students have been identified and this activity addresses their needs.



Is a student still at risk if they do not meet any of the identifying factors except a non-proficient score in 11th grade MME assessment

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ANSWER:

TRUE—The student must be proficient in all subtest areas of the MME to be college/career ready.



We want to create a position of "Dean of Students" with 31a funds. This position will provide counseling services.





ANSWER:

FALSE—This position sounds like it is an administrative position. Section 31a funds may not be used for any administrative costs to administer a Section 31a program, including personnel time spent managing the program, audit costs, evaluation activities and indirect costs.

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An LEA may use 31a funds to send a 31a student to boot camp for improving attendance.





ANSWER:

FALSE— This is not an example of direct instruction or indirect services, nor is it a subset of an antibullying program or crisis intervention program..



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